

**DESCRIPTION**

The Topanga Canyon Creek Watershed is the second largest watershed in Santa Monica Mountains, and the third largest drainage into the Santa Monica Bay. The mouth of the creek emerges into Santa Monica Bay through a small estuary, which has created a major surfing beach at Topanga Beach. Topanga Creek is an important and relatively natural creek in the Santa Monica Mountains, which supports a large diversity of plants and animals, many of which are increasingly rare, including a recovering population of western pond turtles and Steelhead trout (an endangered species). Coliform, metals, and historic pesticides impair the water quality in some streams within the Topanga Canyon Creek watershed, largely related to nonpoint source (NPS) pollution.

While Topanga still retains much of its biological diversity, only half of the privately owned property has been developed. Since the early 1900s, a predominantly rural community has developed to the present population of approximately 11,000 residents. The community initially developed along the creek and has more recently expanded into the surrounding hills and ridges.



Topanga Canyon and Creek  
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California Coastal Records Project).

For more photos, visit:  
[www.californiacoastline.org](http://www.californiacoastline.org).

**REASON FOR CCA IDENTIFICATION**

Topanga Canyon Creek is a 2002 303(d)-listed **impaired waterbody that flows into a Marine Protected Area**.

**POLLUTED RUNOFF CONDITIONS**

	Top 5 Runoff Pollutants of Concern					Efforts to Address Pollutants (See next page)
	2002 303(d)-Listed Pollutants TMDL Priority (& Proposed Completion if available)				Other Pollutant	
Selected Coastal Zone Waterbodies	<u>Lead</u>	<u>DDT</u>	<u>Coliform</u>	<u>PCBs</u>	?	
Topanga Canyon Creek ▲	▲ Medium					
Topanga Beach ■		■ Low	■ High (2002)	■ Low		
Brookside Canyon Creek •						
Potential Sources of Pollutants in Coastal Waterbodies						
Agriculture						a, d
Forestry (Silviculture)						
Urban Areas						
➤ Urban Runoff/ Storm Sewers						a, b, d, e
➤ Septic						a, c, d
Marinas & Boating						
Hydromodification						a, d, e, f
Erosion/Siltation						a, d, e
Wetlands & Riparian Areas						a, d, e
Unspecified Nonpoint Source	▲	■	■	■		a, d

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### MAJOR EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT NPS MANAGEMENT MEASURES

<b>a)</b>	<b>Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council</b>			<a href="http://www.malibuwatershed.org/">http://www.malibuwatershed.org/</a>
	Santa Monica Mountains Resource Conservation District	Melina Watts	(310) 455-1030	<a href="mailto:info@malibuwatershed.org">info@malibuwatershed.org</a>
	➤ A unique partnership of government agencies, local organizations, industry and the public working together to restore and protect the Malibu creek watershed.			
<b>b)</b>	<b>Treat Urban Runoff at Topanga Beach</b>			
	County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works	Bruce Locken, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) contract manager	(916) 341-5718	<a href="mailto:blocken@waterboards.ca.gov">blocken@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
	➤ Dry weather diversion in the Parker Mesa Drain. Duplicate of project 196 proposed by City of Los Angeles; SWRCB staff will work with County and City to determine best lead agency.			
<b>c)</b>	<b>Septic System Repair at Topanga Beach</b>			
	County of Los Angeles	Bruce Locken, SWRCB contract manager	(916) 341-5718	<a href="mailto:blocken@waterboards.ca.gov">blocken@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
	➤ Improvement and upgrades to an aging septic system located at the beach.			
<b>d)</b>	<b>Topanga Watershed Committee</b>			<a href="http://www.topangaonline.com">http://www.topangaonline.com</a> <a href="http://www.rcdsmm.org/">http://www.rcdsmm.org/</a>
	Resource Conservation District of Santa Monica Mountains	Donna Christianson	(310) 455-1030	<a href="mailto:rcdsmm@earthlink.net">rcdsmm@earthlink.net</a>
	➤ Mission is to coordinate and implement a Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) that integrates the needs and concerns of the community while addressing all aspects of watershed ecology and management.			
<b>e)</b>	<b>Topanga Watershed Management Study (1996), second revised edition by Topanga Watershed Committee (2001)</b>			<a href="http://www.topangaonline.com/twc/water/TACR.html">http://www.topangaonline.com/twc/water/TACR.html</a>
	Topanga Canyon Floodplain Management Citizen Advisory Committee (TAC)	Tricia Watts	(310) 4551030	<a href="mailto:tricia@ecoartspace.org">tricia@ecoartspace.org</a>
	➤ Propose to develop and implement a watershed management plan which would reduce peak flow runoff, erosion, sedimentation and flood hazard while protecting the riparian habitat, infrastructure and existing development.			
<b>f)</b>	<b>Topanga Creek Watershed Steelhead Monitoring</b>			<a href="http://www.rcdsmm.org/">http://www.rcdsmm.org/</a>
	Resource Conservation District of Santa Monica Mountains	Donna Christianson	(310) 455-1030	<a href="mailto:rcdsmm@earthlink.net">rcdsmm@earthlink.net</a>
	➤ Monitoring to document relationship of rainfall patterns to steelhead recruitment and survival, develop site-specific recommendations for restoration actions building upon previous studies, and provide data for Recovery Plan.			

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### REGULATORY/PLANNING JURISDICTIONS

➤ City of Malibu, Engineering Services	<a href="http://www.ci.malibu.ca.us/index.cfm?fuseaction=nav&amp;navid=38">http://www.ci.malibu.ca.us/index.cfm?fuseaction=nav&amp;navid=38</a>	Claudio Sanchez	(310) 456-2489	<a href="mailto:csanchez@ci.malibu.ca.us">csanchez@ci.malibu.ca.us</a>
➤ City of Malibu, Planning Dept.	<a href="http://www.ci.malibu.ca.us/index.cfm?fuseaction=nav&amp;navid=42">http://www.ci.malibu.ca.us/index.cfm?fuseaction=nav&amp;navid=42</a>	CJ Amstrup	(310) 456-2489	<a href="mailto:cjamstrup@ci.malibu.ca.us">cjamstrup@ci.malibu.ca.us</a>
➤ Los Angeles County, Public Works, Watershed Management Dept.	<a href="http://ladpw.org/wmd/">http://ladpw.org/wmd/</a>	Terri Grant	(626) 458-4300	<a href="mailto:tgrant@ladpw.org">tgrant@ladpw.org</a>
➤ Los Angeles County, Planning Dept.	<a href="http://planning.co.la.ca.us/">http://planning.co.la.ca.us/</a>	Dave Cowardin	(213) 974-6422	<a href="mailto:dcowardin@planning.co.la.ca.us">dcowardin@planning.co.la.ca.us</a>
➤ Calif. Coastal Commission, Water Quality Unit	<a href="http://www.coastal.ca.gov/nps/npsndx.html">http://www.coastal.ca.gov/nps/npsndx.html</a>	Tracy Duffey	(805) 585-1809	<a href="mailto:tduffey@coastal.ca.gov">tduffey@coastal.ca.gov</a>
➤ Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board	<a href="http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/">http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/</a>	Raymond Jay	(213) 576-6689	<a href="mailto:rjay@waterboards.ca.gov">rjay@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
➤ State Water Resources Control Board, ASBSs	<a href="http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/plnspols/oplans/asbs.html">http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/plnspols/oplans/asbs.html</a>	Connie Anderson	(916) 341-5280	<a href="mailto:csanderson@waterboards.ca.gov">csanderson@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
➤ California Coastal Conservancy	<a href="http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/">http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/</a>	Mary Small	(510) 286-4181	<a href="mailto:msmall@scc.ca.gov">msmall@scc.ca.gov</a>
➤ Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game, Marine Region	<a href="http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/">http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/</a>	John Ugoretz	(831) 649-2893	<a href="mailto:jugoretz@dfg.ca.gov">jugoretz@dfg.ca.gov</a>
➤ Calif. State Parks, Angeles District	<a href="http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=629">http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=629</a>	Suzanne Goode	(818) 880-0364	<a href="mailto:sgood@parks.ca.gov">sgood@parks.ca.gov</a>